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TENNESSEE STATE PARKS STATE PARKS BEST IN THE NATION



Edgar Evins State Park

is located on the shores of Center Hill Lake in the steep, hilly Eastern Highland Rim. The prevalent activity is water recreation including boating, fishing, and water skiing. Wildlife such as deer, wild turkey, raccoon, skunk, and groundhog might be observed on a typical outing. Three owl species, numerous hawks and wintering bald eagles may be seen or heard, as well as the rare Cerulean Warbler, a summer resident of the park's abundant mixed hardwood forests. The park has 6000 acres total with 1500 acres on the developed north side of the lake and 4500 on the undeveloped south side, An observation tower at the Visitor Center offers a spectacular view of Center Hill Lake and the surrounding hillsides.

The Park was dedicated in 1975 and named for James Edgar Evins, a Dekalb County businessman and mayor of nearby Smithville. As a 2-term state senator, Evins was instrumental in the development of Center Hill Dam and Reservoir.

## Restaurant and Marina

The restaurant at Edgar Evins is the Galley, located at Edgar Evins Marina. The Marina and restaurant are considered part of the park but are privately owned and operated. Please call the marina for further details at (931) 858-5695 or (888) 858-5695.

Meeting Rooms

Indoor meeting space available is in the Camper Registration Building. This building can comfortably accommodate 30 people and is handicapped accessible. It is free to cabin guests, but requires reservations. Outside parties may rent the building for a minimal charge.

#### Cabin

Edgar Evins has 34 one-bedroom AA rental units with central heating and air, stove, refrigerator, microwave, television, cooking, eating utensils and bed and bath linens. These units are available mid-January thru mid-December. Reservations up to one year prior to arrival are accepted during this time frame. Guaranteed checkin is 3:00 p.m. and checkout is 10:00 a.m. These units have two full size beds in the bedroom and a sofa-sleeper in the living area. There is a full bath in each unit. Individual balconies face Center Hill Lake and have limited views of the Lake and a swimming pool. Comparable to townhouses or chalets, these 34 split-level rental units are contained in six buildings. There are only four pet friendly units available so please call for availability. Pets are not allowed in the other 30 units. A courtesy dock, consisting of 16 uncovered boat slips, is available to registered cabin guests on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Camping

There are 60 campsites with water and electrical hookups. Four sites have been upgraded for larger RVs to provide 50amp-220volts service. Garbage cans are located at each site. There are 3 bathhouses with hot showers. A sewage dump station is centrally located in the campground. Approximately 20 campsites and one bathhouse are open year-round. Campsites will accomodate campers up to 33 feet. Campground is a Self-Registration campground. Five primitive sites are available. Sites are offered on a first-come first-serve basis. Pets are allowed in the campground but must be on a leash. Volunteer campground host on site 31.

Hiking

There are approximately 11 miles of trails at Edgar Evins ranging from moderate to strenuous. Of the park's 5 trails, the longest is the 9-mile Jack Clayborn Millennium Trail; registration is required at this trailhead. Other trails vary in length up to 1 mile. The Highland Rim Nature Trail, located at the Visitor Center, is noted for an abundance of spring wildflowers.

Fishing

Center Hill Lake is open for fishing year-round. Species include, Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Kentucky Bass, Walleye, Black Crappie, Catfish (three varieties), Bluegill, and various other rough fish. A valid Tennessee fishing license is required. Bait is available at Edgar Evins Marina and numerous other locations around the lake.

Picnic Pavilions and Playgrounds

There are three picnic shelters located near the marina. Unless reserved, they are on a first-come basis. A new handicap accessible rest room is nearby. Each Shelter has approximately 9 picnic tables and can accommodate up to 75 people. A huge fireplace/grill is located in each pavilion. There are 3 playground areas in the park. Many individual picnic tables can be found near the marina and the cabins.

Boating

There are two boat launch ramps within the Park. The park offers seasonal pontoon boat rides (no charge, however donations to the Friends of Edgar Evins are accepted). For information on boat rentals, slip rentals, boat fuel, boat repair and fishing information, please call Edgar Evins Marina at (931) 858-5695. Projected low lake levels on Center Hill may render the Park Boat Launch Ramps inaccessible, please call the Park Office for alternate launch locations.

Planned Programs

Interpretative programs for all ages are scheduled during the summer months. Subjects range from local history to flora and fauna. Special programs are also provided upon request

Swimming

There is a small pool available for cabin guests only, with no lifeguard on duty. The pool is open Memorial Day through Labor Day.



Amphitheatre

A small fire circle is located adjacent to the campground, which may be used by the public, provided no park programs are scheduled there. It seats approximately 15 people.

# Nearby Attractions

- Center Hill Dam, 1 mile
- Cordell Hull Lake, Carthage TN. 12 miles
- Appalachían Center for Crafts, Smithville TN. 12 míles

# Other Nearby State Parks

- Burgess Falls State Natural Area, 24 miles
- Rock Island State Park, 40 miles
- Standing Stone State Park, 45 miles

## Annual Events

- Friends of Edgar Evins Waterfall Tour, mid March
- Edgar Evins Spring Wildflower Fling, late March/early April
- Celebration, Appalachían Center for Crafts, 1st weekend in April
- Annual Flag Retirement Ceremony, Saturday before Memorial Day
- Annual Fiddlers Jamboree, Smithville TN. weekend closest to July 4th.
- Lancaster Fire Hall Jam, 2nd Saturday in August
- Off the Beaten Path tour, Smithville Chamber of Commerce, early Fall
- Friends of Edgar Evins Fall Cruise, late September/early October
- Center Hill Lake Clean-up Day (sponsored by Corps of Engineers) 1st Sat. in Oct.

